

How to Enjoy the Bible, Week # 8 - "Loving the Truth Concerning God's Unlimited and Free Grace - Part 1"

Review

Last Time we focused on how Romans 4 illustrates the necessity of taking the Scripture literally in Paul's references to the Old Testament there. We looked at Abraham's faith in particular and at what the "content" of his faith was, or, in other words, at what promises of God he actually believed:

Rom. 4:14-16

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

- **Verse 16 was one of our main focal points:**
 - **We saw that the purpose of God was revealed there and that we are the beneficiaries in addition to many others.**
 - **We saw that assurance is available because of our faith **IF WE ARE BELIEVING CONSISTENTLY WITH THE MESSAGE OF GRACE (AND NOT WORKS)****
 - **Our faith grasps on to the certainty of our completed salvation through Christ's finished work. We saw how necessary it is for our salvation that we believe exactly what was promised, not subtracting from that nor adding to it, but believing EXACTLY what God has promised!**

- ***That was where we finished, with Abraham's faith. Abraham believed God -- he believed what God had promised to him. He believed that he would have this "son of the promise", was justified (declared righteous), and became the father of many nations (Gen. 15:5-6). In this he took God quite literally and it changed his life forever.***

- ***Based on this Scripture, the apostle Paul concluded that NO PERSONAL WORKS of righteousness were involved in Abraham's justification. This is what he wrote here in verse 16.***
 - ***My thoughts:***
 - ***The bottom line is the finished work of Christ and how that may relate to us sinners.***
 - ***Of course, the personal benefit of the finished work is that we may be saved through faith in that finished work and what our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished by shedding his blood for us.***
 - ***But there is another benefit, and that is our subject in this series of studies in God's holy word. That additional benefit is simply that we may rest fully in him since the work of our salvation has already been accomplished. This is a blessing indeed and our enjoyment in knowing it should have no limit.***
 - ***Amen, we may enjoy the Bible as God's record of what he has done and not his record concerning what we must still do! What a difference this is regarding our enjoyment of the Bible? Amen?***

Today, let's continue with this subject and consider specifically a related theme in the Scriptures, "what it means to love the truth concerning God's unlimited and free grace."

We might have thought that we might ENJOY THE BIBLE even though we do not really love the truth and we know it. We might have had an incorrect view of what the Bible actually is, have not taken it as the revealed and perfectly given Word of God, have not interpreted it literally, have not grasped on to the doctrine of justification (and all of these we have considered already, haven't we?).

SO THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT WE CAN TRULY ENJOY THE BIBLE AS GOD INTENDED WHEN WE APPROACH THE BIBLE CORRECTLY AND RECEIVE THE TEACHING GOD'S SPIRIT WILL PROVIDE?

IF WE ARE NOT CLEAR ON THIS, WE ARE STILL SO LACKING OF THE BLESSINGS GOD OFFERS.

SO, TODAY OUR SUBJECT IS "LOVING THE TRUTH", PART 1".

Our Lesson for Today:

The apostle often wrote concerning truth in his letters (we will consider SIX KEY SCRIPTURES TO STAND ON today, AS WE FIGHT HEAVENLY BATTLES WITH OUR FEET STILL PLANTED HERE ON THIS EARTH).

#1 God and His Truth MUST NEVER BE SEPARATED FOR THEY ARE INSEPARABLE:

[READ] Rom. 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

- God is truth. Our Lord is truth. When God speaks, he speaks the truth, he speaks truthfully.***
- Mankind is just the opposite, apart from the saving grace of God.***

- ***So, God does not play the numbers game like men who seek worldly or even Satanic means to draw in the crowds. This means inevitably that they minimize or even distort the truth of God.***

#2 THE APOSTLE PAUL DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THIS TRUTH OF GOD'S GRACE!

[READ] 2 Cor. 13:8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

- ***What about us today? How do we compare?***
- ***Let's consider this honestly. How do we compare? Do we get wrapped up in what Paul called "vain speaking"? If so, why, when so much is at stake, both for the lost and the saved, and, we ourselves and our enjoyment?***
- ***Remember, even Paul prayed for BOLDNESS?***
 - ***Eph 6:19 . . . And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that **I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,*****
20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

#3 THIS TRUTH INCLUDES THE GOSPEL AS A CRITICAL COMPONENT, so we must never forget that when speaking to everyone, both saved and unsaved:

[READ] Eph. 1:13 In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise

- ***The gospel of grace is a central part of the truth.***
- ***Believing this truth brings both salvation and security in Christ Jesus!***

- *How can we rest in our finished salvation if it is not even on our minds and only legal obedience with its required works are in the forefront of our minds? HOW?*

#4 THIS WAS SO ESSENTIAL TO PAUL'S MINISTRY AND MESSAGE THAT EVEN THE TWELVE APOSTLES NEEDED CORRECTION in reference to the gospel of God's grace! REALLY!

[READ] Gal. 2:5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

- ***Paul had to confront the 12 apostles because they failed to grasp the full significance of the grace he preached.***
- ***If Paul had not corrected the Twelve, the truth of the gospel might have been lost, he says here so boldly.***
- ***[YOUR COMMENTS?]***
- ***The issue of course is partially a dispensational one and partially an issue of understanding of what was accomplished in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

#5 PAUL'S GOAL WAS TO LAY THE FOUNDATION OF TRUTH SO THAT OUR LIVES MIGHT BE BUILT UP UPON IT:

[READ] 1 Thess. 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

- ***This summarizes it all! The word which Paul preached was truth and it was the Thessalonians believing of that which was indeed the word of God that then became so powerful and transforming in their lives***
- ***This teaching provides such a blessing and such great enjoyment of our salvation and of the word of God itself, the Bible.***
- ***GOD IS WORKING THOUGH THIS WORD OF TRUTH STILL!!***

#6 And, now finally, PAUL'S VERY, VERY SAD COMMENTS REGARDING SO MANY WHO WILL BE LIVING IN THE COMING GREAT TRIBULATION PERIOD:

2 Thess. 2:10 . . . [SATAN'S WORK] with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Though verse 10 here is written about the Great Tribulation period when Satan will deceive the world of unbelievers using miraculous signs and wonders, Paul earlier in verse 7 wrote that the mystery of lawlessness is already at work now. So we need to beware of his similar tactics today.

Therefore we are exhorted often to receive and to hold fast firmly to the truth of God's unlimited grace. That will keep our hearts and minds focused on Christ Jesus. And this will enable us to enjoy the Lord and to enjoy his precious truth WHICH IS HIS WORD.

THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH. HOW CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THIS IS TODAY. AMEN?

[YOUR COMMENTS?]

SIX SCRIPTURES ON HOW WE NEED TO LOVE THE TRUTH IN THIS AGE OF DARKNESS.

SIX SCRIPTURES SHOWING THE WAY TO DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND THE BURDENS OF THE LAW.

SIX SCRIPTURES THAT, IF WE WILL ONLY RECEIVE THEM WITH JOY, WILL BUILD A HEDGE AGAINST THE ENEMY AND WILL GIVE US THE STRENGTH AND FORTITUDE TO STAND FIRM AGAINST EVERY FOE.

MAY EACH OF US SOLEMNLY STAND FIRM and fight against GOD'S ENEMIES AND OURS knowing full well that our battles are "in the heavenlies" and that Christ is already the Victor!

And our future has been mapped out by him and we are on course indeed if we gladly accept the abundance of his grace.

Amen.